NORTHERN ISLANDER

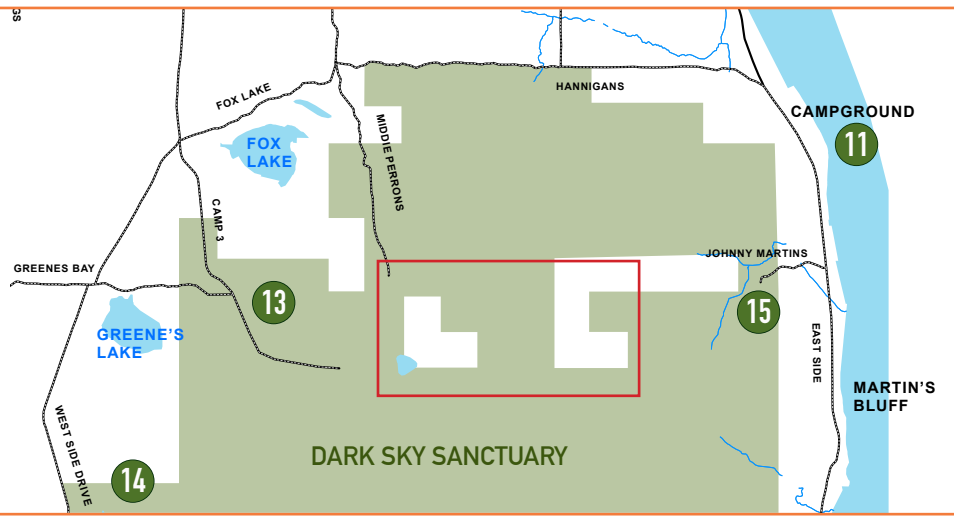
$5.00

NOVEMBER 2025

BEAVER ISLAND'S DARK SKY GAINS NEW GROUND IN HISTORIC LAND SALE

Thanks to the support and dedication of Islander and realtor, Ed Wojan, the State of Michigan finalizes a purchase that secures the heart of the island's star-filled sanctuary.

Learn more about the expansion of Beaver Island's internationally recognized Dark Sky Sanctuary on page 16.



KICK OFF THE SEASON AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Join the fun on December 5 at the Print Shop Museum. There will be music, treats, decorated trees, and cheer for all ages! Bring the whole family for an evening of fun.

Find all the festive and fun event details on page 3!

THE SEASON TO BE THANKFUL: THOUGHTS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

November is natorious for love and words of admiration in the air. From simple joys to heartfelt gratitude, Islanders share what's filling their hearts this season.

Read their reflections and more on page 4.

SECOND CERTIFIED AIR AMBULANCE FOR ISLAND AIRWAYS

Island Airways and Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services celebrate the arrival of their second certified air ambulance, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Kathleena Mason and Chris McGee.

Get the details on page 25.

THANK YOU, VETERANS

Thank you, veterans, for your service. Veterans Day reminds us of the courage, sacrifice, and commitment given by the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Be sure to thank your local veterans, especially on November 11.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

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Dear Northern Islander Readers,

October was another incredible month on the Island, filled with fun activities and memorable moments. As you read through this month's issue, take a moment to enjoy the incredible photos and stories shared by our community!

And now, welcome to November! This is, in many ways, one of the best months on the Island for locals. The pace slows, the crowds thin, and the island truly opens up to the year-rounders. You can take a drive and find yourself alone on the road for miles. Don't let the cool, unpredictable November weather stop you from bundling up in a cozy blanket and watching the waves crash along the shore.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner. A time to reflect on everything we're thankful for and to prepare for that long-awaited meal with family and friends. Continue reading the Northern Islander to see what your fellow islanders are thankful for this year!

And while you're in the giving spirit, consider sharing the Island with others by gifting a subscription to the Northern Islander. As a special bonus, anyone who purchases a gift subscription during November or December will have the chance to share a heartfelt message or photo of their choice with our online community through January.

If that's not reason enough to spread the love, remember that we're a small team devoted to keeping local journalism alive, and every subscription truly makes a difference.

To purchase a subscription or gift one to friends and family, give us a call at 231-448-2254.

Thank you for being a dedicated reader and supporter of the *Northern Islander*!

With gratitude for your ongoing support,
Elsie Burton
Editor of the Northern Islander

LEAVING THE ISLAND?

CONTACT THE NORTHERN ISLANDER
TO UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS, DATES, AND EMAIL

CALL (231) 448-2254

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Print Only (Out of State)	$65.00
Digital Only	$48.00
Print & Digital (In State)	$62.00
Print & Digital (Out of State)	$77.00

Bonus!

As a thank you for giving the gift of Northern Islander News this holiday season, every gifted subscription includes an optional 'happy holidays' feature on the Northern Islander website!

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family

NORTHERN ISLANDER

To set up a gift subscription, visit or call the Beaver Island Historical Society at (231) 448-2254

PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL: FAMILY & FRIENDS PLEASE JOIN US!

The Beaver Island Historical Society warmly invites you and your loved ones to its annual Holiday Social! Join the celebration on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Print Shop Museum for an evening filled with festive cheer, holiday music, tasty treats, and the magic of island tradition. Enjoy a twinkling display of locally decorated holiday trees, vote for your favorite, and try your luck at winning raffle prizes. This is a family event with stocking gifts for all kids.

Your participation and generosity help preserve and share Beaver Island's rich heritage. Every vote, raffle ticket, and act of involvement supports the Society's joyful work and keeps the spirit of giving alive. The event's success relies on the support of Holiday Social Sponsors and the community, making it a true celebration of history, togetherness, and holiday warmth.

There are many ways to get involved: volunteer to decorate, sponsor a tree, donate a raffle prize, or share a holiday poem or memory. If you'd like to help, contact the Society at 231-448-2254 or director@beaverislandhistory.org.

Beaver Island Historical Society Board of Directors:

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THANKFUL REFLECTIONS FROM OUR COMMUNITY

It's that time of year again when gratitude fills the air on Beaver Island. We asked our Beaver Island community and friends from afar what they are thankful for this season, and their answers will warm your heart, make you smile, and maybe make you laugh.

"Aside from being thankful for the team here at Cowell Cancer Center in Traverse City and the advancement in medical technology to combat cancer, I'm also thankful for:

Marlaina Cole for her selfless contributions to her island community. Since taking on management of the BIC Center, she has done a wonderful job keeping "the heart of a good community" beating strong. She enjoyed a brief stint on the school board before resigning to coach the girls high school volleyball team, and is helping to shape and guide our youth as they find new strength and confidence both on and off the court(s).

I am also thankful for the BIC Center as well. It has become such a vibrant, integral part of this island community as it brings people together for many different reasons: holiday events, concerts, plays, recitals, exercise programs, art classes, educational presentations and forums, various meetings, movie nights, concessions, indoor pickleball, and free coffee and donuts for all seniors and veterans every Friday, which provides the perfect space for people to gather and socialize.

The BIC Center has also been proud to support and host music lessons for the Tunes program."

- Shirley Cole

"[Thankful for] A community that continually shows up and supports our young musicians."

- The Beaver Island TUNES program

"We are thankful for our pet family, and our human family! God has truly blessed us in many ways! We are also so thankful to be retiring to Beaver Island this spring. The people here are great and the opportunities for retirees are fantastic. It reminds me of Mayberry! See you soon!"

- Curt and Debbie DeBaun

"I will be forever grateful to Dickie McEvoy for introducing us to BI 42 years ago. We love this place and it's people so much."

- Robin Rogers

"Dickie was a huge Island cheerleader! And he only invited those he knew would enjoy it for its beautiful nature and slow pace."

- Tony Gatliff

"I am thankful for being happy and healthy. I am also incredibly proud to have gotten engaged to Elsie Burton this year!"

- Braden Berridge

"I am deeply thankful for my supportive family and cherished friends. This past year has presented numerous challenges for our family, and I am immensely grateful for the unwavering love, compassion, and kindness they have consistently shown us. Their presence has been a source of strength and comfort, enabling us to navigate these difficult times with hope and resilience."

- Lori Taylor-Blitz

"I'm so thankful for how strong we are. The ice storm proved how tough our island can be, and the long summer helped us grow even when times in this country are hard. I was blessed with a new addition—the first granddaughter, Wrenlee; a wedding to be planned for next year; Elsie and Braden; a successful, even better festival than the year before; and visits to and from friends and family. Being able to travel to Denmark to see our daughter, Olga, and visit some island friends in their home country on the journey. River here we come. But more than anything, I'm grateful for all of my family, my friends, my grandchildren, and for all my other island kids who feel like family, especially when I miss mine."

- Carol Burton

GRATITUDE IN COMPLETE SIMPLICITY: AN EXCERPT FROM MICHIGAN'S HEMINGWAY

As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded of the simple joys that make this time of year special... like a yummy meal, quiet reflection, or the comfort of being present in the world around us. One of literature's most famous voices captures this feeling beautifully.

Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961) is one of America's most celebrated writers. He spent much of his youth exploring northern Michigan. The forests, rivers, and lakes around Petoskey and the Upper Peninsula inspired many of his stories.

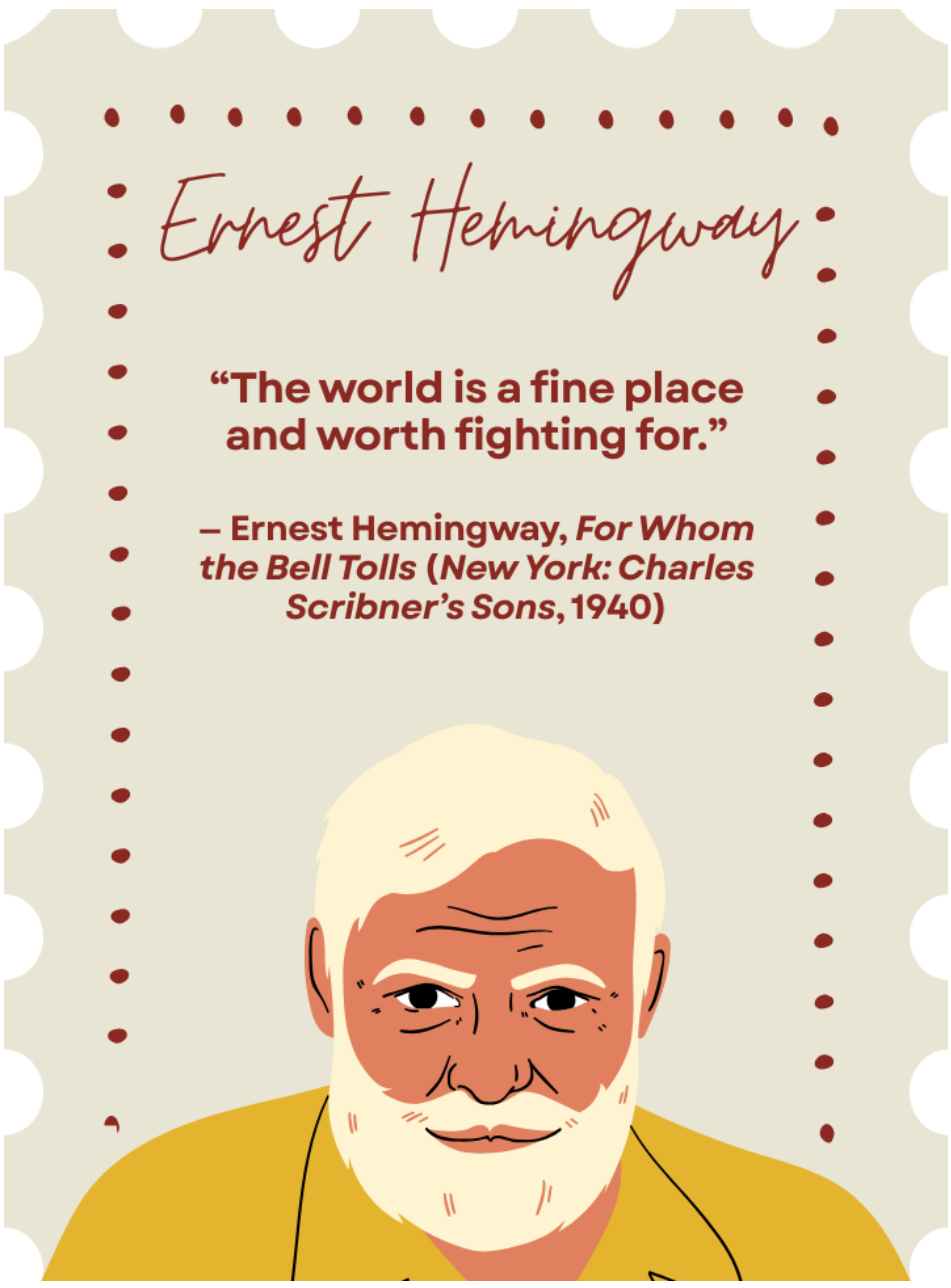
In the quiet woods of northern Michigan, Hemingway found a peace and stillness that still appeals to readers a century later.

His short story *"Big Two-Hearted River,"* first published in *In Our Time* (1925), follows Nick Adams as he returns to nature to recover his heart and mind after the traumas of war.

Hemingway's character, Nick, reflects on the calm joy of solitude. The following passage reminds us of the quiet blissfulness that can come from simply being alive in the world:

> "He felt happy. He loved being alone and fishing. He had been that way before but he had never felt it so strongly. He felt he had left everything behind, the need for thinking, the need to write, other needs. It was all back of him. He just felt he wanted to get back to the camp and cook the dinner. He looked down the river at the logs and the branches of trees that stuck out above the smooth surface of the water. The river was there. It was all there. All he needed to do was get his camp set up and start to fish."
>
> — Ernest Hemingway, *"Big Two-Hearted River," In Our Time* (1925)

This Thanksgiving, Hemingway reminds us to slow down, appreciate the simple blessings of life, and find joy in the quiet, restorative moments that surround us. Consider this whether you are in the outdoors, in our homes, or in the company of friends and family.


Ernest Hemingway
"The world is a fine place and worth fighting for."
– Ernest Hemingway, For Whom the Bell Tolls (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940)

Tried and True Family Favorite Recipes

Alice Hetherington's Stuffing

Submitted by Rach Becker

Each month, we will feature recipes that are sure to have you coming back for seconds. These are the recipes that we grew up with and still make today.

Alice (Layman) Hetherington was born in Indiana. She married John "Doc" Hetherington, and they raised their six children: Eleanor, Diane, Jack, Mark, Gary, and Mary, in Indianapolis.

In 1950, John went hunting with some friends on Beaver Island, and they stayed on the property that John was destined to own. He went home and told Alice about the hidden gem. He owned his own airplane, so they flew up, and Alice was also smitten. They would bring the kids for the summer, starting in early June and staying until Labor Day, for many years.

Alice continued working as a Certified Nursing Assistant in Indianapolis until 1978, when she moved to Beaver Island full-time and joined her daughter Diane, who had already been living there for a couple of years.

Alice was best friends with my grandma, Frances LaFreniere. She helped my grandma clean the rentals at Isle Haven. Alice was a very soft-spoken, gentle, and kind-hearted soul.

Thanksgiving is upon us. Stuffing is a favorite of many. Maybe you'll add this to your feast!

The ingredient list reflects the total amount of supplies you need, but you separate it three times, once for each loaf.

Blasta! (Irish for delicious)

Ingredients:

- 3 loaves of soft white bread (medium-sized loaves)
- Coarse ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 sticks of butter
- 6 eggs, plus 6 egg yolks
- 16–20 tablespoons of water

Do one loaf at a time, removing the crust. Break up the bread in a large bowl and layer with coarse-ground black pepper as you break it apart. Drizzle 1 stick of melted salted butter over the bread and fluff with a fork. Add 2 whole large eggs and 2 egg yolks, beaten with 4–5 tablespoons of water, and mix with a fork. Add to a 9x13 casserole dish. Repeat the process two more times. Bake at 2250°F for 1 hour, covering the dish with foil. Remove the cover for the last 15 minutes to brown. It will look bubbly and have a crispy brown appearance. Three loaves of bread make one pan of dressing.

Ed Wojan Realty- *Your KEY to Beaver Island*

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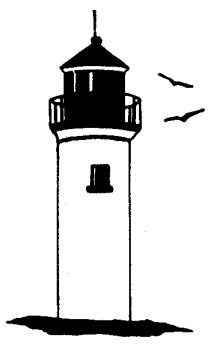


Celebrating our

50th year

In BI Real Estate

The Burgess Family Home – 29265 Greene's Lake Rd.

The only large home near Greene's Lake. This recently remodeled bi-level home of 2048 sq.ft. of finished, insulated living area with a huge attached and insulated garage/workshop looks out over the field of State land in front of it at the open access area of Greene's Lake. This Lake has almost 100% State Land around its shoreline. The property comes with 60 Acres of Hardwoods forest land with a lot of open areas including a beautiful, secluded meadow to the North. The view of the Lake from the great room is significantly increased when the leaves fall. It has spectacular scenery from the house in all four seasons. This structure has two large bedrooms with two full baths, and a sleeping loft with a ¾ bath, via a spiral staircase above the great room. The home faces South over a large area of Blue spruces and a large stand of Norway spruces. It has many roads and trails through the 60 Acres. The owners have also set up their own family "camping area" in the stand of Spruces. The Miller's Marsh large Nature Preserve is only 1 ¾ miles South and the beautiful Iron Ore Bay Public Beach is just 4 ½ miles South. The owners have recently done a lot of wonderful landscaping work – including an herb/kitchen garden on the East side of the house. **There is so much about this home and properties that you have to go through it to understand what it really is.** The current replacement cost of the home and the landscaping and the areas opened, is well over one million dollars. Plus! The current land value is about $250,000 - for a total replacement cost of about 1,250,000. (Good 10 acre parcels on Beaver Island are currently selling for $45,000 to $50,000 each). This is therefore a very good offering at the FIRM asking price of **$695,000**

Ed Wojan Realty - 26300 Back Highway - Beaver Island, MI 49782 - www.edwojanrealty.com

BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE CLUB NEWS

By Jacque LaFreniere

The Annual Harold Lounsberry Hunters Dinner will be held at the Shamrock on Nov. 16 from 6–8 p.m. Featured will be a buffet of a variety of foods, usually including some wild fare. The raffle drawing will be held between 7 and 8 p.m. Tickets cost $10 each or 11 for $100. Some will be available at the dinner for purchase. Purchase them before the day of the event from any of the board members (Mark and Jacque LaFreniere, Bruce Beaudoin, Levi Connor, John Earl Haggard, Brian Antkoviak, Shelby Harris, and Bob Turner).

This year's raffle will include the Grand Prize: a Henry Lever Action .22 rifle; First Prize: a Kelly Day Charter half-day fishing trip for four. Other prizes include a camping package (sleeping bag and tent), fishing rod and reel combo, rangefinder and binoculars combo, call package (turkey, predator, duck, and whitetail), Buck fixed-blade knife, ground blind and chair combo, Mr. Heater, a ladder stand, and a $100 gift card to Cabela's! You need not be present to win.

Also this year, we will have a youth-only raffle. One ticket will be given to each youth under age 18 who attends the dinner. Additional tickets may be purchased at the door. Their prizes will include a camping package (sleeping bag and tent), binoculars, rod and reel, Daisy Red Ryder BB gun, and a Buck knife. Must be present to win.

Roy Elsworth Big Buck Contest: Sign up for the Big Buck Contest at Powers Do It Best Hardware Store before the end of the business day on Nov. 14. Entry fee is $20. The winner will get half of the proceeds. Bucks must be shot on Beaver Island during rifle or muzzleloading seasons only. Bucks must also be scored on the island. The winner will be announced at the end of the muzzleloading season in December.

Reminder: The state is allowing any legal firearm to be used during the muzzleloading season in December.

Big Doe Contest: Bag the biggest doe by weight, and you could win a cash prize of $200! Weigh-ins will be through Deputy Levi Connor. This will be only for the firearm and muzzleloading seasons.

Another reminder—you must get your license before coming to the island. Buy in person at a store off-island that offers that service, or go online. Island residents should buy their licenses online at least two weeks in advance of hunting. You must have the kill tag in your possession before going out to hunt, and it may take up to a couple of weeks to get it sent to you. Need help? Come into the library, and Jacque can walk you through the steps.

Other thoughts—the coyote population is high again this year, so make sure that you track and find your deer immediately, or you may not have any meat left! Coyote season is also open, and hunters are encouraged to help us lower that population before winter.

Turkey season ends on Nov. 14. Get your bird bagged before then. Again, you must have a kill tag in your possession before you hunt, and they are only available at off-island stores or online.

MICHIGAN DNR DEVELOPS MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR BEAVER ISLAND

By Shelby Harris, Beaver Island Wildlife Club Member

On Monday, September 29 the Michigan DNR hosted an Open House 3:00-7:00 p.m. at the Beaver Island Community Center for residents and visitors of Beaver Island to provide an on-island opportunity for further discussion over proposed timber harvesting for Beaver Island and other DNR related topics. Hosting was Jeremy Wood, MDNR Wildlife Division Biologist and Derek Nellis, MDNR Forestry Division, with about a dozen Island attendees including Don Tritsch of the Beaver Island Wildlife Club, Pam Grassmick of the Peaine Township Planning Commission, Cheryl Kern of the Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association (BIATA), Bill Markey of Beaver Island Dark Sky Project and others.

Within the Management Plan for State-owned Lands on Northern Lake Michigan Islands, a product of collaboration between various Beaver Island stakeholders based on partnerships and shared governance responsibilities, State-lands have been identified into three zones of management; Special Conservation, Selective Management and Habitat Maintenance & Restoration with management outcomes being threefold:

1. Identify, protect, and monitor important ecological resources and mitigate threats that interfere with ecological processes.
2. Promote a variety of density and size classes and cover types through forest management activities that support economic opportunity and wildlife habitat.
3. Develop and implement procedures to carry out state-owned land forests that incorporate transparency and public input within the NLMIC (Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative) collaborative governance framework.

At this MDNR Beaver Island Open House, the first of several timber harvest proposals in the next decade were presented for public review and comment. These proposals are aimed at roughly 240 acres of the 12,800 acres of State-owned land on Beaver Island and are open to possible modifications to best achieve the optimal benefits and goals set in the collaborative plans. All ongoing proposals are available for review and comment on the MI State Forestry Public Input website (*https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/forestry/public-input*) or through email to MDNR Biologist Jeremy Wood (*woodj26@michigan.gov*).

Questions were raised from attendees around several topics in relation to this proposed timber harvest, including concerns around tree diseases, invasive species and any discovered resiliency, differences in timber harvesting on island versus the mainland, intended buffer zones from roads, possible fire danger, policies around protected species, impacts on the White-tail deer population and much more. The DNR provided educational answers, further resources to research questions and options to discuss any other concerns or topics further one-on-one, through comment cards or phone/email.

The Beaver Island Wildlife Club would like to thank the MDNR Wildlife Division for their efforts in moving forward the NLMIC Implementation Plan and for providing the opportunity to openly discuss proposals to help create more diverse forest systems & sustainable wildlife populations for Beaver Island. It is through these collaborative efforts, collection of on-the-ground data, and open discussion that we can successfully achieve our established overarching goals for our island communities. We, the Beaver Island Wildlife Club, support the MDNR Wildlife Division and their proposals of timber management for Beaver Island and look forward to the continuous monitoring and outcomes of these efforts.

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

Where can you see all the events happening at the Library, new books, and other items available, and a little bit of information about national month celebrations? Wowbrary! Check it out! (Ha-ha! A little bit of library humor there!)

Go to our website (beaverisland.michlibrary.org), and there is a link to sign up for your weekly notifications—through email or Instagram! You can also contact the Library, and we can get you signed up ourselves. It's a wonderful way to stay connected with BIDL!

LIBRARY TOUR

Part 1: The Entrance
As you enter the Library, notice the bulletin board on the right side. There you will find our Library events and notices. Some are ongoing, and others are just for the month. So, be sure to take a look at the bulletin board when you enter.

Looking down, you will find two beautiful benches, and they are loaded with free materials—yours for the taking.

On the wall opposite the bulletin board is our lighted display case. This display case is always an educational experience, and, yes, the books in the case can be checked out. Just ask a librarian to get them for you. If you have any ideas or items you think would make a nice display, talk to us about it (e.g., Santa Claus collection, pottery from around the world, or something that you collect and wish to share through a display…).

Now, before you step into the Library, you will see signs on the glass alongside the door—lots of great information for you there also.

Turning right when you come through the doors, you'll find the bathrooms and the Public Notice bulletin board. Per our policy on displays, no personal sales (yard sales, specific items), but business hours, public notices, etc., are welcomed. Unsure? Just ask a librarian!

To the left is our Seed Library—seeds are free for the taking, although we would welcome donations so we can purchase more seeds and provide funds for our Seed Library Speaker Series.

Next month—Part 2: Inside the Library!

ONGOING KIDS' EVENTS

Babes and Toddlers: Meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m., this group offers free playtime for youngsters while their parents can socialize also.

Homeschool Meet-Up: Offered on Tuesdays at 2:15, homeschool meet-up is activity-based for homeschoolers to build friendships and learn! Open to ages 5 and up.

Fiero Code: Saturdays at 1 p.m., kids ages 8 and up can learn to code in a fun, game-based way.

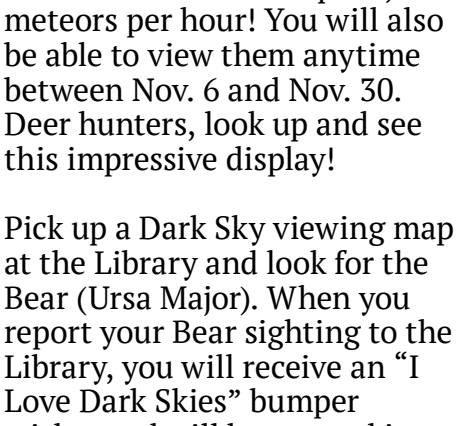
Teen Movie Night: Nov. 4, 6–8 p.m. at the Library. Fall-themed snacks will be provided; feel free to bring a dish to share. The movie will be Corpse Bride.

Reading Pals: Held once a month, Reading Pals is back in action! Mrs. Bedell's 3rd and 4th graders enjoyed reading to our Pals volunteers (senior citizens). Stories and smiles were shared by all. Thanks to all who volunteer.

Contact the Library if you are interested in volunteering or for more details about our Afterschool programming.

AFTER SCHOOL@BIDL
Starting Oct. 6th
Monday: Crafting Club
Tuesday: Taste the World
Wednesday: Lego Club
Thursday: S.T.E.M Club
Friday: Assorted Game Day
Kids age 9yrs & younger need an adult present.
Feel free to contact the library with questions.

Crafting Club is held on Mondays, where kids are welcome to join in making a craft to take home. We will be making fall-inspired art and crafts such as leaf suncatchers, Q-tip-painted trees, and more. If your child loves arts and crafts, this is a great program to express their creativity and build friendships.



UPCOMING EVENTS

November 1, 1–3 p.m. at the Library. Come in costume or not for some fun and food to celebrate Halloween.

Book Club meets on November 19 to discuss this month's read, Night Watch by Jayne Anne Phillips. 3 p.m., and Zoom is available.

Dark Sky Event: November 17–18—Leonid Meteor Showers will be visible at their peak, 15 meteors per hour! You will also be able to view them anytime between Nov. 6 and Nov. 30. Deer hunters, look up and see this impressive display!

Pick up a Dark Sky viewing map at the Library and look for the Bear (Ursa Major). When you report your Bear sighting to the Library, you will receive an "I Love Dark Skies" bumper sticker and will be entered into a drawing for "Astrid the Astrology Bat!" Astrid loves dark skies and was donated by the Send a Friend organization.

Reminder: All Dark Sky and NEA Big Read events are on the Community Calendar.

Survival Movies at the BIC Center: Saturday, Nov. 22, at 3 p.m. – WALL-E, and at 6 p.m. – Greenland.

WALL-E: After hundreds of lonely years of doing what he was built for, the curious and lovable WALL-E discovers a new purpose in life when he meets a sleek research robot named Eve (G).

Greenland: A family fights for survival as a planet-killing comet races to Earth. The family makes a perilous journey to their only hope for sanctuary (PG-13).

First Book Discussion: Books and Brew at Whiskey Point Brewery on November 16 at 4 p.m.

Local Author Workshop: Acacia Warmerdam will present how to self-publish your own book on November 5 at 7 p.m.

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL MONTH OF…

Have you ever wanted to write a novel? Get help from https://writers.com/nanowrimo-tips#respond and get your pencils sharpened!

The goal is to write that novel in the month of November. It might sound daunting, but you only have to write 1,667 words a day! At the end of the month, you will have a 50,000-word novel!

CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Read a book written by a Native American author.

Read a book about Native Americans.

Attend an event held by a Native American.
"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents." —Emilie Buchwald

Ways to Promote Family Literacy at Home:

1. Set aside time each day for reading.
2. Keep books visible around the house.
3. Make regular visits to the Library.
4. Read the book version of your child's favorite movie.
5. Organize a children's book club with friends.

Lights Out on Planet Fiero: A Solar Crisis!

The unthinkable has happened—Planet Fiero's main energy source, the Great Solar Core, has gone dark! Without its radiant light, the robots are losing power, and the entire planet is falling into shadow.

Your mission: design and program an energy-restoring adventure using code blocks to save the planet before it's too late!

To succeed, your robot player will need to travel through a maze of solar tunnels to collect shards of light, dodge traps, and activate the Great Solar Core. Your challenge: Create a video game that guides the robots on their quest to reignite the light of Planet Fiero!

Local prizes, as well as a chance to compete nationally. Contact the Library for details.

REDUCED THANKSGIVING HOURS

Closed Thanksgiving Day
Open 12–5 Friday and Saturday

Thank you to our supporters!

After the ice storm this spring, the Beaver Island Music Festival site experienced tremendous damage. Thanks to our incredible community and valued supporters, we came back strong this July! Thank you to the team of volunteers who helped clear the venue of debris, the people who donated to the new playground equipment, and to the Charlevoix County Community Foundation for the grant that provided us with covered picnic tables! The new additions were put to good use!

Together, you helped bring our community spaces back to life! Thank you endlessly!

MICHIGAN GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL TO ELIMINATE TAXES ON TIPS, OVERTIME, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

By Elsie Burton

On October 8, 2025, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed into law a major tax-relief measure as part of Michigan's fiscal year 2026 budget. The bill eliminates state taxes on tipped income, overtime pay, and Social Security benefits.

For a community like Beaver Island, where many residents are involved in service industries such as restaurants and hospitality, or where retirees make up a significant portion of the population, this bill will have a meaningful impact. For at least the next three years, Michigan residents who receive income from tips, overtime, or Social Security will have a little more money in their pockets.

ANNUAL MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

Attention Beaver Island residents aged 65 and older. Medicare plans and drug coverages often change each year. The Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) for Medicare is October 15 through December 7, 2025.

Medicare plans and prescription drug coverages often change each year and now is the time to review your Medicare plan and make any necessary adjustments for 2026. If you are currently enrolled in a Medicare Supplemental plan or have a Medicare Advantage plan and haven't already met with either of these knowledgeable Medicare advisors, please give them a call to review your plan.

Presented in alphabetical order, the Northern Islander makes no recommendation between the two.

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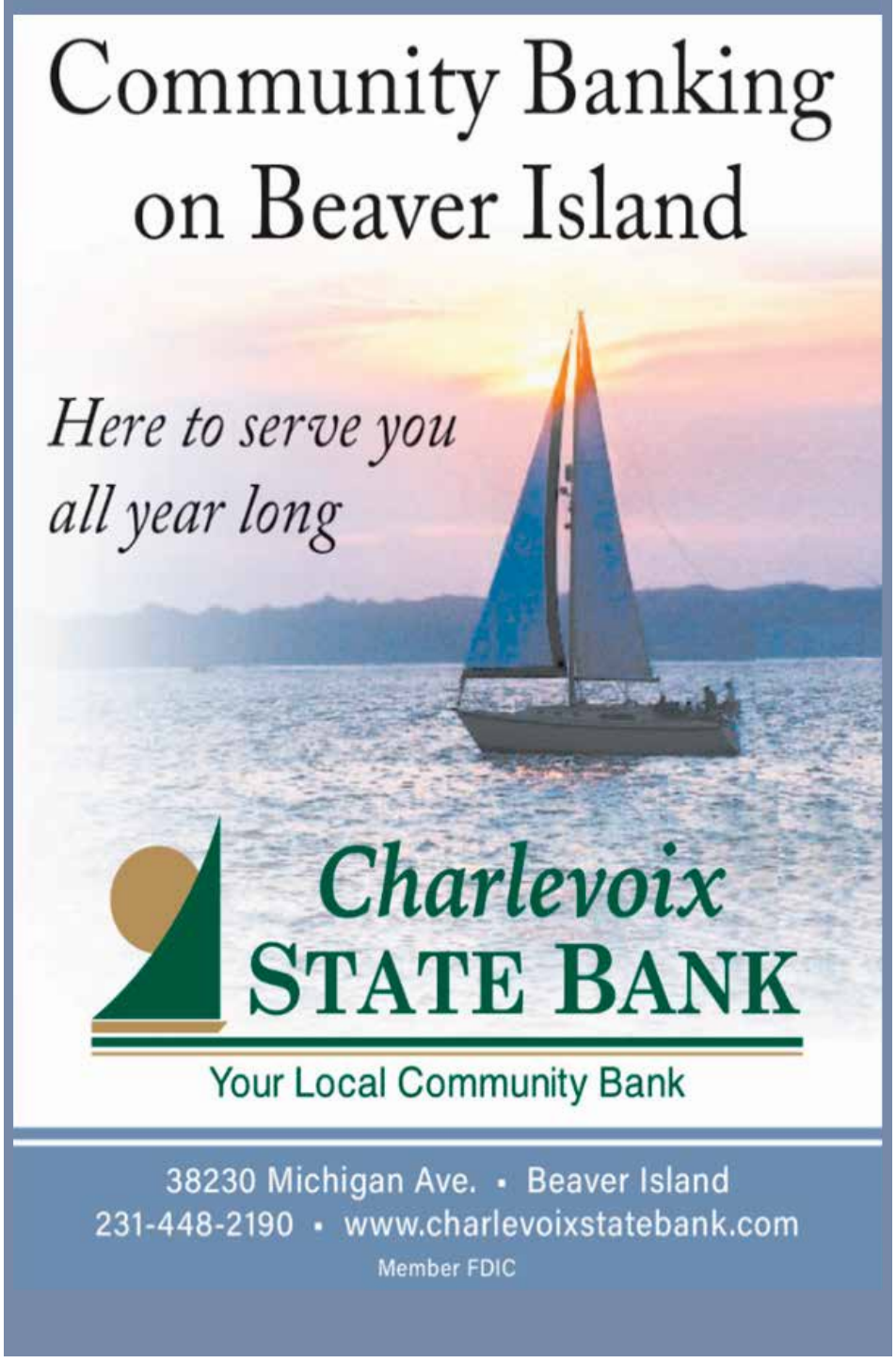

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An extreme level of craftsmanship has gone into this Lake Michigan home with coffered ceilings, hardwood custom cabinetry, radiant in-floor heat, custom stained glass windows, and restored antique lighting being just a few features. For efficiency there is wind and solar power with battery storage, and a geothermal HVAC system. Before you think this home takes itself too seriously, the confessional closet stores the audio system, the painted ceiling portrays the sunrise and sunset, and there are touches of whimsy and charm at every turn. The kitchen is sunny and thoughtfully designed with appliances hidden in unfitted cabinets, with plenty of counter space, large bar, and an antique steel painted ceiling. There are two offices on the main floor, one with cherry cabinetry, the other is beautifully finished in birdseye maple. The primary suite has a lovely tile and marble bathroom with an enviable walk in closet. There are two more ensuite bedrooms upstairs. You will love the sunroom that runs the length of the house on the water side with doors leading out from all of the adjoining rooms. The beautiful sandy beach has small rocks in the water. Located close to town, yet still very private, come enjoy Beaver Island in comfort and style!

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Fewer than 1 in 7 lung cancer patients will be diagnosed in the earliest stage, when the disease is most treatable. Screening for lung cancer for high-risk individuals using low-dose CT scans can lead to the earlier detection of lung cancer and save lives.

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National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

Alzheimer's is a progressive brain disorder, NOT a normal part of aging.
More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's.
The Alzheimer's Foundation of America offers Virtual Memory Screenings. Find out more at
https://alzfdn.org/memory-screening-2/virtual-memory-screenings/

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AN ISLAND AIRWAYS BEAUTY

Photo Credit: George Broder

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VIEWS FROM THE FRONT PORCH

By Michelle LaFreniere

This month's chapter of Views from My Front Porch was written not about anyone, just a recap of my European vacation—things I've learned and what I loved and did not love.

Two quotes and a couple of people are responsible for this vacation. One, a quote from Dale Carnegie: "The only place fear exists is in your mind." The deaths of both of my brothers, Gerald and Rory—Gerald, three years ago at age 55, and Rory this year at age 49—also influenced me. And a quote from my mother, upon hearing of her terminal illness in 2012: "I want to spend the rest of my life living, not dying."

It is not lost on me that life is fleeting. I try very hard—intentionally—to really live each day. I love to travel, and my partner does too. I have always been a little afraid to travel to Europe. I speak only one language. I don't have very good hearing, so the fear of missing an announcement at an airport is real. It has happened to me before—but on a domestic flight. Internationally? Yikes! Michael has traveled to Europe before and has really wanted me to see it. The invention of Google Translate made my decision easy—that, and the fact that Mike hears well enough for both of us.

We had been planning an RV trip out west for a couple of years. We had a friend offer his RV to us, but Mike did not want to borrow something so expensive. We investigated renting one, but none were what we could afford for the distance we hoped to travel. Mike said to me one night, "We have to go somewhere; life is just too short not to take a vacation." I replied, "Well, Cari Ledbetter is going to Amsterdam." He thought we should do the same.

We found flights to Amsterdam and then started looking around to see what was nearby. We planned a whirlwind of a trip. It was exciting, exhilarating, and exhausting.

SOME THINGS I LEARNED:

Figure out the public transportation system before you go. Make sure your hotel room has a private bathroom if that is important to you. Thankfully, I realized that our rooms did not all have private bathrooms before we went. I redid our hotel reservations to accommodate that necessity for me. In doing that, though, I had to book further out from the city centers to stay within our budget. I should have just paid the higher rate in the town area. We spent the difference in Ubers, and it was too much to go back to our hotels to rest at midday. That alone would have been worth it.

Do not buy the breakfast. Every single breakfast we found was ridiculously expensive for what it was. You can go to a market anywhere and buy fresh fruit, muffins, etc., and take them back to your room for the next morning. The only exception to this was Dublin, Ireland—more on that later.

Europeans are leaps and bounds ahead of Americans in many ways—recycling in particular. Every trash bin I found had recycle bins with it. There is no plastic silverware, cups, etc. Their takeout silverware is all bamboo—pretty cool and decent quality. We were pleasantly surprised.

Bike riders in Amsterdam are serious. They have dedicated lanes for bikes, and y'all better stay out of them. Mike, more than once, had to snatch me back onto the pedestrian sidewalk. He could hear the telltale "ring-a-ling" of an approaching bicycle. I could not. I swear there are no overweight people in Amsterdam, save the tourists—probably because they all ride bikes. We should learn from that.

Amsterdam was founded in 1275—five hundred years before the U.S. I guess they have been figuring things out longer than we have.

Take the canal cruise. That was my favorite thing we did there. So much history and so many architectural marvels—so much that I almost wish we had done it twice.

Check out the Red Light District. It is not what you presume it to be—not family-friendly, but interesting nonetheless. Prostitution is very heavily regulated by the Netherlands government. It will never be regulated enough for me, but I guess, to each his own. Ryanair's cheap flights are not cheap; however, the customer service is top-notch.

We stayed in a hotel called Hotel 7 in Dublin—easy walking distance to the main street. It is a hidden gem. Our room was gorgeous—in an old building but clearly rehabbed at some point. They have a restaurant on-site that is to die for. Their Irish stew was amazing. They have an excellent breakfast there as well. Pay the money for that one. They would appreciate a reservation for meals, as it is a small restaurant.

Tipping is not customary in Europe, so we were treated like royalty because we did.

We did the hop-on, hop-off bus while in Dublin. It is comprehensive, with lots of stops and entertaining drivers. Worth the money. We did one complete round and then again to stop exactly where we wanted to. It is definitely the New York City of Ireland. Next time it's straight to the west coast of Ireland. Nonetheless, we are glad we did it. The Temple Bar area was a favorite—worth it just for that.

It looks like I am running out of room for this month. I will have to share about Belgium and Germany in another post somewhere down the road. See you soon!

THE JUNIPER WELCOMES FIRST TENANTS

By Brittney Ritoff

The Juniper has officially opened and is now accepting applications. Twelve one-bedroom, one-bath apartments, split between six duplexes, are ready to house the island's current and future residents, workers, seniors, and anyone else who qualifies.

The property is move-in ready, with a gravel driveway, concrete sidewalks, and locally constructed staircases. Landscaping plans and more are set for the spring of 2026. There are currently six fully leased apartments with ongoing interest.

First constructed in Illinois and then shipped over 500 miles to their location on Karnes Drive, the modular homes took over six months to build to ensure the quality was as high as possible. The apartments feature preinstalled stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, free Wi-Fi, and carpeting in both the living area and bedroom—a commodity not typical in affordable housing, according to Ebersoldt + Associates Architecture (e+a Architecture), the housing development team behind it all.

Owned by Vince Ebersoldt and his wife, Meg, e+a Architecture is an award-winning design firm that focuses on affordable housing, historic adaptive reuse, and more. They're located in St. Louis, Missouri, though their portfolio expands nationwide with 45,000 housing units designed and constructed—the island being the first of its kind. The $1.8 million housing project was created with the intention of bringing a potential solution to the current housing crisis on the island—a fact the Ebersoldts are well aware of after being part-time island residents themselves since 1999.

"Our hope is to have the property fully occupied by the end of the calendar year," Vince said. "We are very pleased with the diversity of residents thus far, as we've seen high interest from the workforce as intended, but also from seniors and others we hoped we would appeal to."

The housing project is anything but a source of income for the firm. "This project is not about making a maximum profit for us, but about doing our part to address the critical housing needs for the island to continue its progress," Vince explained. "There is no subleasing allowed and no short-term rentals either. The vast majority of the income from the property will be going back into the units." With that in mind, e+a Architecture already has plans to pursue a second phase as part of MSHDA's MI Neighborhood Grant Program, possibly adding two-bedroom apartments and more.

Bobbi Welke, Supervisor of St. James Township, where The Juniper is located, had this to say as well:

> "Workforce housing is one of the many housing options needed on Beaver Island. To plan, build, and open twelve single-bedroom, year-round rental units in eighteen months is a significant undertaking for the developer. The Beaver Island Association's Housing Task Force has learned a lot about multi-housing development—its costs and challenges. It is understood that for some islanders this development may not be affordable or include enough bedrooms. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) also learned about our unique challenges and has offered to consider solutions for Michigan's island communities. We look forward to future collaboration with MSHDA and our community to plan further housing options."

For those interested in leasing, please contact Diane McDonough at 231-448-2164 or via email at info@thejuniperbi.com to arrange tours, request an application, and discuss the leasing process and MSHDA requirements.

The website, *www.thejuniperbi.com,* also includes the application form for viewing or download.

GREGORY LARSON
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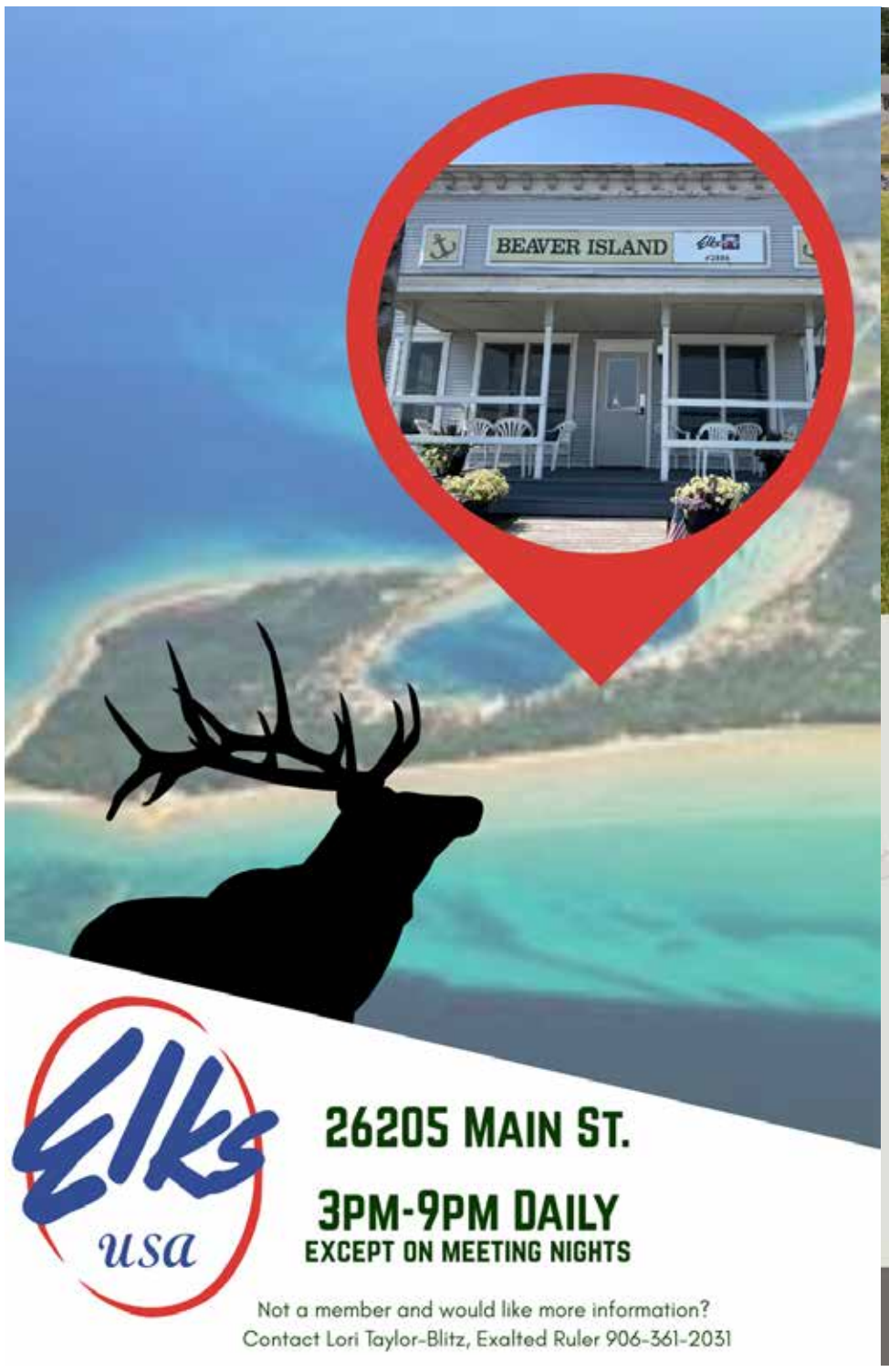
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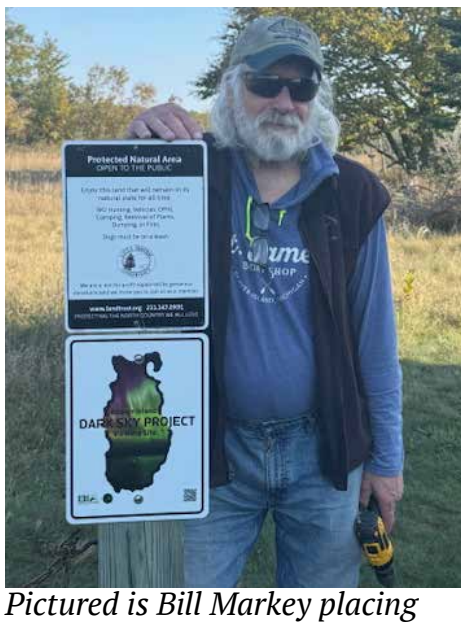
ISLAND PARTICIPATES IN THE NATIONWIDE NO KINGS PROTEST

A group of about 70 people gathered and marched at the harbor in support of the national No Kings Day protest on Saturday, October 18. The headcount exceeded 10% of the local population participation goal.

Photo credit: George Broder

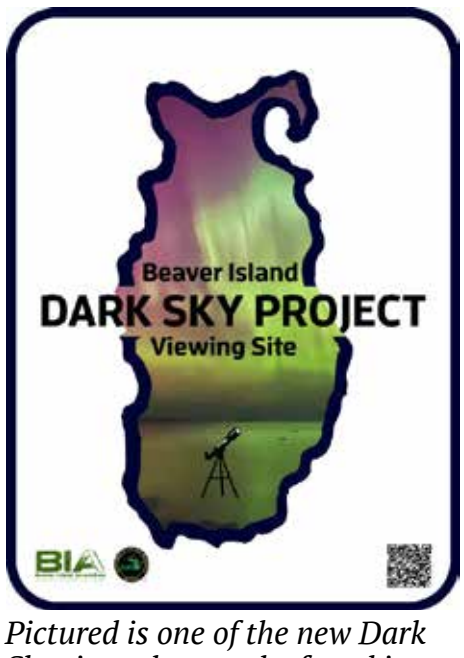
DARK SKY VIEWING SITES RECEIVE NEW SIGNAGE

Visit one of the Dark Sky Project's dark sky viewing sites, and you will find an official "Beaver Island Dark Sky Project Viewing Site" sign. The signs were designed by members of the Dark Sky Project to supplement the Dark Sky Viewing maps available to the public at the Beaver Island Community Center, and were underwritten by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources with assistance from the Beaver Island Association.



Pictured is Bill Markey placing one of the new Dark Sky viewing area signs.

A unique feature of the sign is the QR Code that takes you directly to the Dark Sky Project's website: *darkskyisland.org*. Here, you can learn about the organization's mission, the quality of Beaver Island's dark skies, the negative impacts of light pollution, the benefits of responsible lighting, and how to become a dark sky advocate.



Pictured is one of the new Dark Sky signs that can be found in viewing areas.

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- Vote for Your Favorite Tree: Spread the cheer by casting your vote for the most festive tree. Each vote is $1, and you can vote as often as you'd like. Help crown this year's island favorite!
- Seasonal Music & Light Nibbles: Enjoy holiday tunes while sipping on delicious mulled cider and hot chocolate

JOIN THE CHEER

- Volunteer to decorate the Print Shop Museum, adding your creative touch to our festive setting.
- Sponsor and decorate a holiday tree to contribute to the Holiday Tree Wonderland and showcase your spirit.
- Share your favorite holiday poem, song, or memory with the crowd, spreading warmth and joy throughout the evening

SUPPORTING THE MISSION

Join in the festivities by sponsoring and decorating a holiday tree. Families, businesses, and individuals are all encouraged to help bring in the holiday spirit. All funds raised will go directly to support the Beaver Island Historical Society. This celebration is made possible through the support of Holiday Social Sponsors.

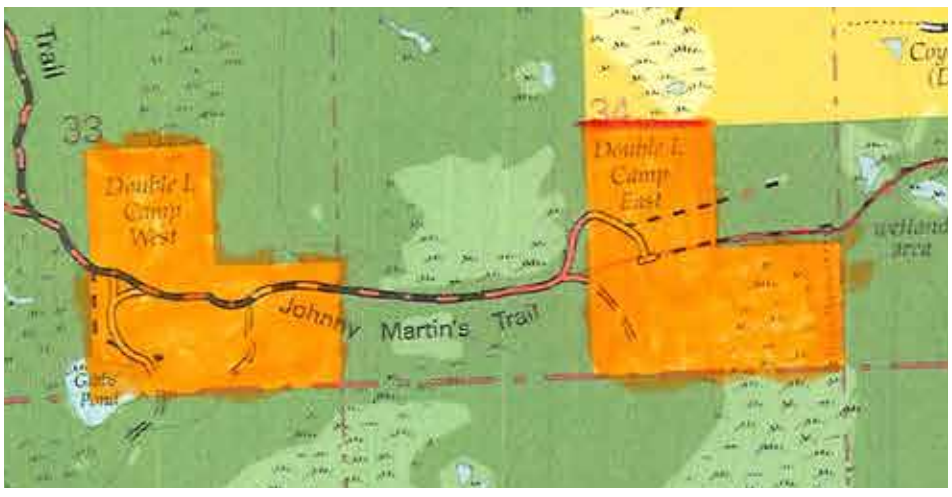
GET IN TOUCH

If you'd like to help, call **(231) 448-2254** or send a note to *director@beaverislandhistory.org*.

BEAVER ISLAND'S DARK SKY SANCTUARY EXPANDS ACREAGE

By Elsie Burton

A major land sale finalized this fall has secured the heart of Beaver Island's internationally recognized Dark Sky Sanctuary. On September 15, 2025, Islander and real estate broker Ed Wojan completed the sale of two significant parcels, known locally as Double L Camps, East and West, to the State of Michigan.



The sale concluded a 18-month process that involved six separate 40-acre properties owned by four different landowners, purchased by one entity, and all ultimately combined into one state purchase. The roughly $375,000 sale brings additional acreage of pristine forest and wetland under public protection, ensuring that the core of the Beaver Island Dark Sky Sanctuary remains free from development and artificial light.

Wojan who has been in real estate on Beaver Island for 50 years said he and the landowners, Wayne and Polly Duncan of Alexis, Illinois, had long hoped to see the land become public.

The Duncans had originally purchased the acreage as an investment for their individual retirement accounts (IRAs), but later agreed to pursue a sale to the state. The process proved challenging: the State of Michigan required the transaction to close as a single combined sale, which meant the title company, Barron Title Agency in Charlevoix, and closer Jennifer Oswald spent months reconciling parcel descriptions, easements, and historic surveys to satisfy state legal requirements.

The eastern parcel was largely wetland, containing 7–8 acres of old-growth sugar maples and hemlocks that had been monitored for years by Central Michigan University, and biologist Jim Gillingham. The western parcel was drier and more accessible, making it more attractive to private buyers.

During negotiations, a private couple offered substantially more than the listing price and threatened legal action when the land was withheld from sale. Wojan held firm, saying the property should remain public. To ensure the sale went through, he waived his $21,000 commission, accepting only a symbolic $1 payment. "If we hadn't closed by October 1, the land would have gone to another buyer," he recalled.

Payment was received about two weeks after September 15, and the deeds were recorded shortly after.

Wojan credits several key individuals for seeing the deal through: Paul Rose, appraiser for the state, who introduced him to officials in Lansing; Walter Linn, a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) official who visited Beaver Island and "lit a fire" under the acquisition process; and Rob Corbett, state acquisition manager, who finalized the purchase paperwork.

The transaction also depended on patience and persistence from the Duncans and extensive unpaid work from Barron Title Agency. The newly acquired land includes Gibbs Pond (now fully state-owned), extensive marshland, and the acres of timber CMU has studied for decades. Wojan noted that Johnny Martin's Trail, an old family route dating back to 1932 easements, runs through the property and has been improved with gravel to make it walkable.

Though a later state land swap with the Coyote Land Company affected a portion of the trail, the area remains accessible and intact.

Cynthia Hector Johnson, a Beaver Island Dark Sky Project advocate and former editor of the Northern Islander, emphasized how vital the sale is to preserving the sanctuary's integrity.

When describing the land, she stated that "...those two sections of land [Double L Camps, East and West] lie just about in the middle of the International Dark Sky Sanctuary in an area that is completely without electricity... completely dark." She later stated that the land acquisition, "brings us, adding the 240 acres, to a total of 9,665.5 acres completely without light pollution in the state of Michigan on Beaver Island."

Beaver Island's designation as a DarkSky International Sanctuary, one of only 23 in the world and one of two east of the Mississippi, was awarded in 2024. Johnson said this acquisition will be reported in their next annual update to maintain certification.

"This is one of our biggest achievements," she said. "The community is working together, the state agencies are working together too, and Ed [Wojan] is working together. I have goosebumps."

According to Johnson, "...our [the Beaver Island Dark Sky Sanctuary's] intent will continue to preserve more of Beaver Island, keeping it light pollution free, and take action to support this worldwide organization [DarkSky International]." Future acquisitions could expand protected land and create new Dark Sky viewing sites.

At 78 years old, Wojan views this as one of his proudest professional moments.

"It was my obsession once I got to know this land, that it should never be private, that it had to go public," Wojan said. "I'm so pleased they now belong to the state."

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Community Collage

BEAVER ISLAND AT A GLANCE

Photo Credit: George Broder, Carol Burton, Beaver Island Community School, and Beaver Island Community Center

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Word Search

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P C N M N Y A X C U R C
M O R N Z O Y A V T I Y
E Z J S A A V W V U D C
V Y O X B M P E A M E O
Y L U V K F O P M N O D
W P G L C C M N L B Z Z
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ANSWERS

2025 EMERALD ISLE IRISH FÉILE ESTIMATES ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR BEAVER ISLAND AND CHARLEVOIX

ANNUAL FESTIVAL STIMULATES OVER $269,000 IN DIRECT SPENDING, BOOSTS LOCAL BUSINESSES AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

By Kathleen "Kitty" McNamara

Beaver Island, MI – The 2025 Emerald Isle Irish Féile once again demonstrated its influence, serving as an authentic celebration of Irish heritage and a catalyst for economic growth, both of which are key goals of the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group (BIIHG) which curates the festival. This year's Féile drew hundreds of visitors from across the region, country and world, resulting in an increase of activity for local businesses and providing a boost to the residents and workers of Beaver Island and Charlevoix during the late tourism season. Numbers identified here are estimated by BIIHG's finance committee members Shannon McDonough and Angel Welke and are likely conservative estimates. It is worth noting that the other Island based festivals such as Baroque on Beaver and the Beaver Island Music Festival would likely generate similar economic impacts.

TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING

Travel to Beaver Island increased for the weekend, with ferry and airline ticket sales exceeding $54,000. Every visitor's journey translated into new dollars circulating through the island economy, highlighting the festival's significant draw. Lodging providers—including motels, inns, and vacation rentals—reported sold-out accommodations, generating more than $33,000 in revenue and keeping rooms filled during a period when tourism traditionally slows down.

LOCAL BUSINESSES SEE STRONG SALES

Island restaurants, pubs, shops, and markets experienced a steady flow of customers throughout the festival weekend. Collectively, visitors spent over $80,000 on meals, drinks, groceries, and souvenirs—revenue that supports small business owners and their employees directly. Additional spending on fuel, entertainment, and other island services contributed thousands more, creating a lasting ripple effect in the local economy.

Festival Revenue Supports Ongoing Cultural Programming
Ticket sales, sponsorships, and a successful community raffle combined to raise more than $97,000, ensuring the sustainability of the Féile and future Irish cultural events on Beaver Island. This funding is instrumental in keeping the spirit of Irish traditions alive.

WIDER REGIONAL BENEFITS

The positive economic impact extended beyond Beaver Island. Festival attendees who traveled to get to the island had to travel through Charlevoix, generating an estimated $20,000 in additional spending on local food, fuel, parking, shopping, and lodging. This means the Féile not only strengthens Beaver Island's economy but also provides a meaningful boost to Charlevoix and the broader Northern Michigan region.

Extending the Local Season and Supporting Island Workers
By hosting the Féile in September, the festival extends Beaver Island's busy season beyond Labor Day, providing crucial support during what is typically a quieter time of year.
The increased activity helps local businesses maintain momentum into the fall and offers seasonal employees—servers, bartenders, retail staff, and transportation workers—additional hours and increased tip earnings. This puts more money directly into the hands of local residents who depend on seasonal work.

CELEBRATING CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND GROWTH

Beyond the impressive economic statistics, the Emerald Isle Irish Féile continues to foster cultural pride, draw new visitors, and showcase the hospitality and vibrancy of Beaver Island.
The festival's success is made possible by the generous support of sponsors, donors, and community partners. Their investment not only sustains Irish heritage on the island but also drives meaningful economic growth for businesses, employees, and families throughout the region.

Together, we are proving that the Emerald Isle Irish Féile is more than a cultural celebration—it is a vital economic engine and a treasured tradition worth growing for years to come.

Photo credit: *Alchemy Creative Mt. Pleasant (Irish Féile photos, 2025)*

Míle Buíochas - A Thousand Thanks!

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THE STORIES BEHIND THE NAMES OF ISLANDERS LOST ON THE GREAT LAKES

By Connie Wojan

The following article is a part of an ongoing series based on Islanders listed on the Great Lakes Memorial.

On October 1, 1879, just six years after the Lookout accident, Lake Michigan claimed the life of another Thomas Boyle. This Thomas Boyle was born in 1851 to John and Sophia Boyle, who, like their son, were born in Ireland. John came to Beaver Island to farm. Their son Thomas listed his occupation as "laborer" in the 1860 census and as a farmer in the 1870 census.

In 1876, Thomas married Bridget McParneth. Also born in Ireland, Bridget arrived in New York in 1859 from Liverpool, England, on the ship Everett. Like most Irish immigrants, Bridget and her family (mother Elizabeth and three siblings) were fleeing the aftermath of the Potato Famine (1845–1852) and seeking the promise of land ownership. At least one million Irish starved or died of disease during what they called the "Great Hunger." As the famine persisted, hundreds of thousands found themselves evicted from their tenant farms or struggling to feed a family on as little as one-quarter of an acre. Beginning their journey malnourished, the McParneth family was lucky to survive their 35-day ocean passage. In the 1800s, the packet sailing ships in which immigrants traveled were labeled "coffin ships." In these filthy, densely packed vessels, infection spread easily, causing as many as one in five to perish before reaching American shores.

Bridget bore Thomas a daughter, also named Bridget, on January 20, 1877. Sadly, according to Helen Collar's notes in Holy Cross Church archives, Bridget (age 25) died just 13 days later from complications following her daughter's delivery. Childbirth anywhere in the 1800s was dangerous, and maternal mortality was much more common than it is today.

I could find no details concerning the circumstances of Thomas's drowning at the age of 28. There is no record of any other island resident drowning on the same date. A fishing accident is a possibility, although there is no record of Thomas being a fisherman.

However, some farmers on Beaver Island also took advantage of the fertile waters of the Beaver Island archipelago. "Even those who came to farm… began fishing as well. The fish were too abundant to ignore." (William Cashman, Vol. I, Journal of Beaver Island History). Unlike many of the others listed on the "Lost on the Great Lakes" memorial at Whiskey Point, Thomas's body must have been recovered, for Holy Cross Church and U.S. death records state he was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery. However, cemetery records do not list a headstone for him or his wife Bridget.

The tragic story of Bridget and Thomas's early deaths, like others in this series, illustrates the harshness of life on Beaver Island for early Irish immigrants. But conditions for Irishmen in other regions of the U.S. were similar or worse. According to the National Endowment for the Humanities documentary Out of Ireland (2020), the average lifespan of a first-generation Irish immigrant was six years. The death rate from disease in the congested, squalid city slums where most immigrants lived was extremely high. The limited number of jobs open to the Irish were only those so physically punishing and dangerous that no one else would take them. Even slave owners refused to rent out their valuable human property to perform jobs that innumerable Irish died doing—for example, digging canals, mining, and building railroads and high-rises.

So, apart from the fearsome reality of life elsewhere in their new land, why did some Irish choose Beaver Island as their North American destination, far from the big coastal cities where their ships docked? One reason was the availability of tracts of affordable acreage. Another was that the beauty of the terrain reminded them of their native land. The reports of fantastic fishing excited those who had cast their nets in the seas surrounding Ireland. Finally, after the departure of the Mormons, Beaver Island became a safe, supportive community of relatives and friends, protected from the rampant discrimination and anti-Irish sentiment that prevailed in the rest of America at the time.

COLLABORATION UNDER PRESSURE: ISLAND RESPONDERS SAVE THE DAY

By Brittney Ritoff

On July 30, 2025, at approximately 2:00 p.m., Beaver Island's first responders, EMTs, fire department, police department, airway personnel, medical personnel, and the Coast Guard responded to a rare car collision on the southeast side of the island. A car with a single driver collided head-on with another vehicle carrying five individuals. Unfamiliar with the terrain and blind corners, along with higher-than-average speeds, contributed to the collision.

"It was an intense few hours," Island Airways owner and President, Angel LeFevre-Welke recalled, "As soon as the pagers went off, I knew it was serious. I called our Charlevoix office to let them know what was going on and get ready. The designated air ambulance plane was already on its way back to the Island. The crew got the stretcher kit ready."

When Deputy Sheriff Levi Connor and EMS personnel Kathleena Mason first arrived on scene, it was quickly obvious that much more was needed than initially thought. Tammy LaFreniere, EMT, arrived with the first ambulance, followed by the fire department and Chris McGee, EMT, with the backup ambulance. Also involved were Island Airways of Beaver Island, North Flight Aero Med out of Traverse City, and Guardian Flight 214 of the Global Medical Response from Escanaba, all of whom responded with air ambulances to help transport the injured to various hospitals.

"It was all hands on deck," Angel said, "Firefighters helped with triage, wreckage, and moving patients. The officers drove the ambulances. There was such purpose behind everyone's actions… it was the finest example of collaboration on Beaver Island."

The most critically injured patient and a less-injured family member were the first to leave the island, thanks to Paul Welke and Island Airways. In the midst of it all, on the complete opposite side of the island, an elderly gentleman also had a medical emergency. Paul transported him, while in the meantime, Deputies Neal Green and Levi Connor transported the more stable patients to the Rural Health Center. The Coast Guard transported two individuals to other hospitals as well.

After three hours, all patients were transported to their respective hospitals and all first responders were accounted for. Island Airways, the police department, fire department, medical personnel, and paramedics all sat down and debriefed the event, offering clarity and insights, as well as support, to those who needed it.

"Everyone there—EMS, the fire department—worked great together to help those involved," Kathleena Mason said, "The collaboration was truly amazing."

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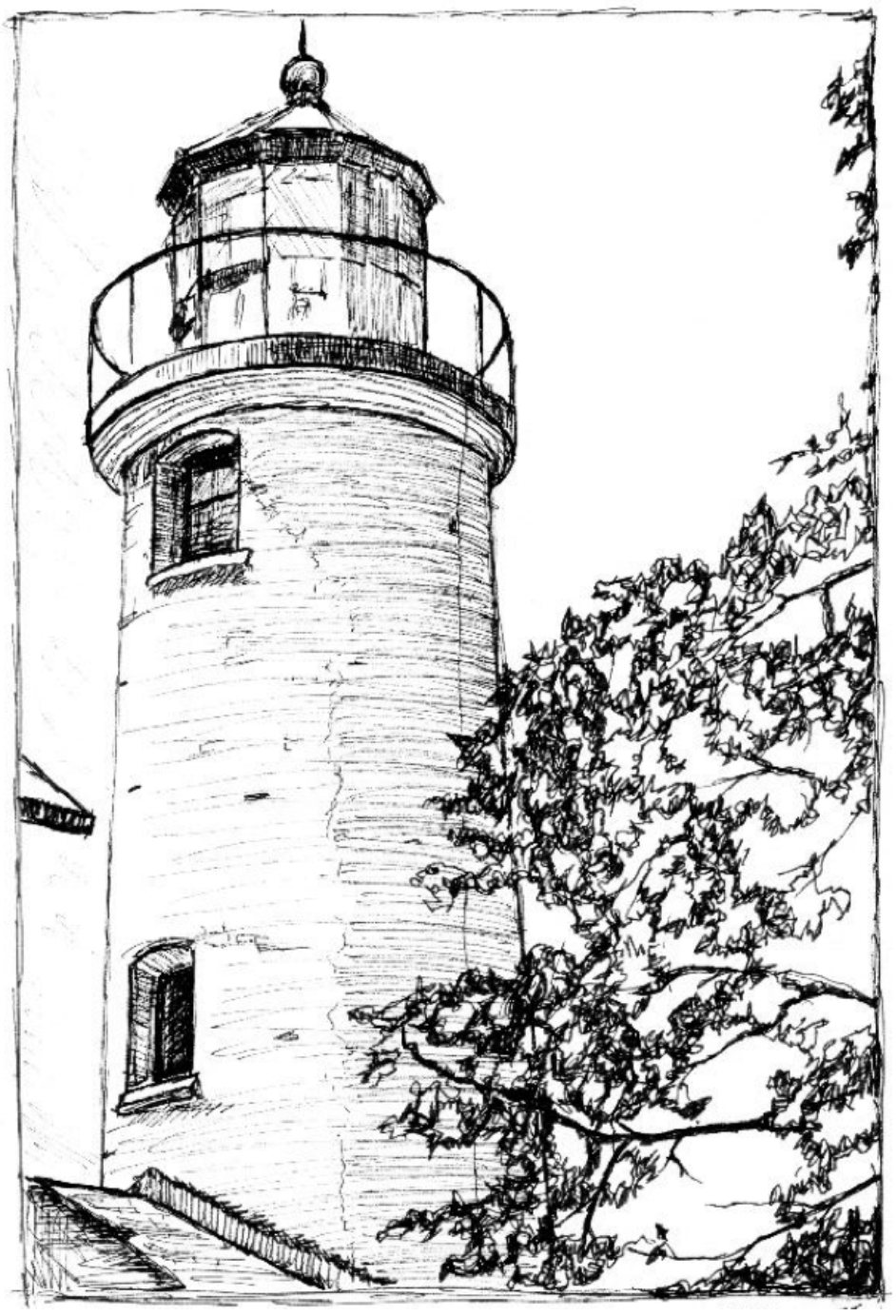
THE ART OF RICH SARRAZIN

First published in the Beaver Beacon, November 2010



Beaver Island residents and visitors never tire of seeing an artist take inspiration from something so common here that it is often taken for granted. Such a sight occurs along the Harbor, out at the Protar Home, or among other old farmsteads several times each summer—and that's not even counting the organized collectives, such as students in the CMU watercolor class.

We all like to stop and look over the artist's shoulder, and perhaps interrupt his or her concentration by sharing information (which may or may not be accurate) that we've picked up from some unremembered source over the years. As we stand there spouting our folk wisdom, a frequent experience is that we suddenly notice an aspect of the subject we had never registered before. We glance up at the thing itself, and sure enough, there it is.

"I never noticed that before," we say, shifting our stance to block less light. Leaning closer, we discover what makes him an artist. He is concentrating so intensely on penetrating the scene's next layer of resistance that he cannot step back, at least during the process, to explain what he has moved beyond.

With this kind of art, the art recedes from notice, and what comes through is an evocation of the thing itself. As we let our eyes rest, we tend not to see the subtle linework and techniques that have taken the artist a lifetime to master. Instead, we willingly allow ourselves to be bathed in ambiance, reflecting on the memories of past good times generated by the subject.

We need not hesitate to confess this to the artist. He or she is less concerned with revealing the technical questions that had to be answered or the compositional problems that had to be solved, and more interested in hearing that his efforts have been rewarded, and that the work of art can be considered a success.

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BEAVER ISLAND'S AIR AMBULANCE FLEET EXPANDS

Island Airways and the Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services (BIEMS) proudly welcomed N949PW as its second certified air ambulance aircraft.

Island Airways states the new addition will help ensure uninterrupted emergency transport service, even when the other plane is undergoing maintenance or on a flight off-island.

The airport gives special thanks to BIEMS Executive Director Kathleena Mason, and to Mason and Chris McGee for their work during the successful State of Michigan inspection.

WHAT'S NEW AT BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS SPREAD BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

The Beaver Island Community School (BICS) National Honor Society students Sophie McDonough (President), Kira Turner (Vice-President) and Izzy DeLaat (Secretary) went over to the Beaver Island Post Office on October 17 to help decorate the lobby for Breast Cancer Awareness.

FROM BOOK TO FARM - 3RD & 4TH GRADERS GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY

After reading Charlotte's Web, the BICS 3rd and 4th graders took a visit to the Warmerdam Homestead to pick apples, collect pumpkins, and feed the pigs.

OFF TO THE CIRQUE SHOW

On October 16, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade class flew off the Island with Island Airways to see a cirque show at the Great Lakes Center for the Arts. Students also enjoyed a picnic lunch and followed a walking trail to the show.

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GREAT LAKES ISLANDS ALLIANCE RETURNED TO BEAVER ISLAND FOR THE 2025 SUMMIT

By Brittney Rittof

The Great Lakes Island Alliance (GLIA) made its way back to Beaver Island for the first time since its creation in 2017. Seventy-two people from 12 of the total 18 different islands traveled from other Michigan islands, plus Wisconsin, Ohio, and also Ontario and Prince Edward Island of Canada, and Saint Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

HISTORY

According to their website, GLIA is "a voluntary, bi-national, collaborative network that brings together individuals from year-round island communities across the Great Lakes."

GLIA was formed in 2017 when Pam Grassmick (and company) from Beaver Island traveled to the islands of Maine. They saw Maine legislators at the island meetings listening to the islanders. They brought this idea back to the Great Lakes, and in October 2018, a total of 16 islands had joined. Besides their once-a-month meeting, Pam stated it perfectly: "There's something special about being face-to-face and breaking bread together."

WELCOMING NIGHT

Presented by Matt Preisser, GLIA coordinator and member of the Stewardship Network and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), the summit began with an opening discussion, including this year's theme of collaboration. "We work best when we work together," Preisser encouraged. "How can we work together to make something happen?"

With that in mind, Bob Anderson of the GLIA Steering Committee challenged attendees to "think big… What can we accomplish if we put our minds to it?" Next was a group discussion, followed by dinner catered by the Beaver Island Community Center (BICC).

DAY ONE

Breakfast was served at the BICC auditorium, catered and served by Central Michigan University (CMU). Each islander signed up to attend two out of three breakout sessions: "Education," led by Will Cwikiel, Beaver Island Superintendent; "Housing," led by Bobbi Welke, St. James Township Supervisor, and Vincent Ebersoldt, Housing Developer; and/or "Arts and Culture," led by Lori Taylor-Blitz, Executive Director of the Beaver Island Historical Society (BIHS), and Carol Burton, Executive Director of the Beaver Island Music Festival (BIMF). After the morning discussion, everyone split off into their respective sessions.

Wil Cwikiel led an engaging discussion with the GLIA group about education. In typical teacher fashion, he kept participants engaged with brainstorming activities, a tour of the Beaver Island District Library, and a tour of the Beaver Island Community School. His brainstorming session proved useful, as people were able to learn more about the importance of community engagement and partnership with local businesses and organizations.

"Housing" started off in the BICC auditorium. Bobbi Welke and Vincent Ebersoldt presented the new Juniper Housing workforce units on Karnes Drive. Vince shared his background and intentions as a multifamily housing developer and part-time island resident. The group took a field trip to the property, where they toured one of the new units with Vince (for more information about Juniper Housing, see page 12).

"Arts and Culture" was hosted in the Print Shop Museum. Lori Taylor-Blitz and Carol Burton took turns explaining how the Museum and the Music Festival have built upon each other since the festival's creation 23 years ago. For example, the Print Shop hosts a Museum Week, usually around mid-July, and the festival occurs either the weekend before or after, thus increasing the chances of longer-visiting tourists and visitors. "We sell fun," Carol Burton explained. "But fun is hard to fund."

Lunch was served at the auditorium by CMU again, then everyone split to their second session, thus seeing two out of the three available. The evening settled with a full group discussion, dinner catered by the Beaver Island Elks, and finally, a mushroom foraging presentation by Gina Mangra at the library.

DAY TWO

Tuesday's conference began with breakfast at the CMU Biological Station (CMUBS) and a keynote presentation by Jennifer Valiulis, Territorial Chief of Wildlife for the U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife. The breakout sessions offered two options: "Environment & Natural/Cultural Resources" and "Island Economics, Health Care, & Emergency Services," led by Angel Welke, owner of Island Airways and BI Chamber of Commerce, and Ann Partridge, Managing Director of the BI Rural Health Center.

The "Environment and Natural/Cultural Resources" session was held in the CMUBS Lecture Hall, where there was a panel of presenters, starting with Kevin Pangle, Professor and Director at CMU. Also presenting were Mae Wright, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and member of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians; Derek Shields, Director of Land Stewardship at Little Traverse Conservancy; Greg Larson President of Beaver Island Association.

"Island Economics" was in a CMUBS classroom. Angel began with a brief discussion and then opened the room to allow everyone to share a story or concern, build off another, ask questions, etc. The evening finished with tours of CMUBS, nature walks, a trip to town, and other networking opportunities. This was followed by dinner and live musical entertainment by local BI artists.

CLOSING DAY & STATEMENTS

The last day of the summit featured breakfast at the BICC, group reflections, discussions about GLIA's future, and a group photo. By 10:30 a.m., the summit was adjourned. Folks began their trips home, bringing pages of notes, minds full of ideas, and a sense of newfound hope for their respective islands' futures.

For more information about GLIA, visit *glialliance.org*.

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NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

As November begins, we take a peek back at mid-October's third annual *Harvest on the Harbor* fall festival, which was a great success. In addition to local businesses hosting sidewalk sales, restaurant specials, raffles, and games, your Community Center had a full weekend of fun for everyone. It began on Friday morning in the lobby with free coffee, cider, and doughnuts for everyone, including Beaver Island Community School (BICS) students who came in to take advantage of the sweet treats. Saturday held a full day of festivities in front of the building, starting with delicious soups and chili for sale by the local Amvets organization, surrounded by vendor tables filled with wonderful homemade crafts and foods. While parents and kids dove into pumpkin decorating crafts inside, out on the sidewalk the "Johnny Applesqueeze" crew pressed fresh cider from local apples, dispensing cups of the warm autumn drink to all. With two rounds of a pumpkin-pie-eating contest for adults and kids, and the Elks Lodge next door selling caramel apples and brats, there were plenty of tasty treats for the large crowd that filtered through the festival on a beautifully sunny October day. Families enjoyed two hayrides as well—one with a stop at the Martin home outside of town for pumpkin picking, and one taking in the fall scenery, with both wagons full of happy parents and kids. All in all, Harvest on the Harbor was a well-attended celebration of autumn on our remote island, with great weather putting smiles on everyone's faces. For an up-close glimpse of the festivities, see the photos on this page.

As we head into November, there's a wealth of hand-picked movies for our Saturday matinees, with details found on the Beaver Island Community Center (BICC) website, Community Calendar, and Facebook page. From old classics to new releases, and kids' movies to spooky Halloween features, with a documentary thrown in, here's a rundown: *E.T., Presence, Minecraft: The Movie, Famous Last Words: Dr. Jane Goodall, K-Pop Demon Hunters, The Fantastic Four, WALL-E, Greenland, Charlotte's Web, and Babette's Feast*. Concessions and meals are available, and a freewill donation is suggested.

Our regular programs continue, such as Time for Art, Senior & Veterans Free Coffee and Doughnuts, Tai Chi, Chair Strength Training, and the return of Pickleball to our auditorium for the cold months. In addition, there are two free Medicaid review sessions for seniors—and keep an eye out for last-minute programs to be announced on our digital platforms. We also want to remind everyone of our Cart Raffle, featuring the Viacci Street-Legal Golf Cart, perfect for rolling across the greens or through town. Tickets are $50.00 each or three for $100.00, with only 1,500 to be sold. Tickets can be bought at the BICC or online at *store.biccenter.org*, with the drawing to be held on November 29 at 8:00 p.m. at the Shamrock Bar and Restaurant. See you at the Community Center!

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MILLER BOAT LINE'S FORMER FERRY, WEST SHORE, IS THE WEST SHORE ONCE MORE

By Sheri Trusty, originally published Sptember 24 in The Beacon (Port Clinton, Ohio)

PUT-IN-BAY – When Captain Sean Whelan of Arnold Transit Company in Michigan was a young boy, he developed a strong attachment to the ferries that got their start with Miller Boat Line on Put-in-Bay, especially the West Shore and South Shore. Both vessels were sold long ago to welcome new ferries to the Miller fleet, and they sailed away to Michigan, where the West Shore was eventually renamed the Anna May.

This year, to honor the ferry's history, Arnold Transit Company changed the Anna May's name back to the West Shore, and Whelan captains the boat that captured his heart many years ago.

But Whelan's first love was the South Shore that made daily excursions to Beaver Island, which his family visited often.

"As a kid, I remember hanging out by the South Shore," Whelan said.

Whelan was so enamored with the South Shore as a child that he wrote William Market, who owned Miller Boat Line with his wife, Mary Ann, to learn about the vessel's history. Today, Miller Boat Line is owned by William and Mary Ann's children, Billy, Julene and Scott.

"When I was a young kid, I wrote Miller Boat Line, and William Market wrote me back," Whelan said. "I had an attachment to the South Shore and asked if he had any old photos. He sent me photos and a copy of an inspection."

When the West Shore also began traveling to Beaver Island, Whelan discovered a second love. Today, he sits at the West Shore's helm and ferries passengers from Arnold's St. Ignace dock to Mackinac Island and back.

"When the West Shore came to the island later, it never dawned on me that one day I'd be the captain of it," he said.

The West Shore has had a long career on the Great Lakes. It was built as a passenger and vehicle ferry for Miller Boat Line in 1947 and was sold in 1998 to Bud Martin of Beaver Island. There, it became a freight hauler in Lake Michigan. It was purchased by Bay City Cruises in 2008 for use as a touring boat, but those plans didn't come to fruition.

In 2013, it was sold again, this time to Mackinac's Star Line, which renamed the boat the Anna May. For many years, the Anna May hauled cargo during the day and offered sunset cruises on Lake Michigan in the evenings.

When Star Line rebranded to the Arnold Transit Company name, Whelan approached the owners about restoring the West Shore name.

The West Shore ferries passengers across Lake Erie when it was owned by Miller Boat Line.

"I'm a history buff, and I always liked the West Shore name," he said. "When we did the rebranding of the company, I asked about changing the name of the Anna May back to the West Shore, which was its name for over 60 years."

The name was changed in May, and today, the West Shore is back to its roots as a passenger ferry. The ship has a liquor license, and passengers enjoy leisurely trips to Mackinac Island, with a drink in one hand, a snack in the other, and a legacy of service and history all around them.

"It's been really popular. It's a nice, comfortable ride," Whelan said. "They don't make boats like that anymore."

The West Shore is the oldest operating ferry on the Mackinac Island runs, and there is a good reason it has survived since 1947. William Market had the vision to ensure it stayed out of saltwater that would slowly erode and destroy it.

"My dad knew he would have to sell off the vessels as he replaced them. But what my father had in mind – and I love this – is he wouldn't sell them to anyone in saltwater," Julene said. "He had offers, but Dad said no. He said that we're going to keep these vessels at home in the Great Lakes, that we're going to keep them in freshwater."

Julene remembers when each of the vessels was sold and permanently left the dock.

"When we sold the vessels, we had farewell parties with former captains and community members," she said. "It was like saying goodbye to an old friend when they floated away for the last time."

The name change was a surprise addition to Miller Boat Line's 120th anniversary celebration this year. News that the West Shore's name was restored spread joy across the island. Their beloved West Shore had risen from the dead.

"It wasn't just my family that was happy; it was the whole island community," Julene said. "Year-round residents and summer residents – it made everyone so happy. People started reminiscing. It was an emotional, nostalgic moment."

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CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - OCTOBER 8, 2025

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on October 8, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Christensen.

Motion approved the agenda, as presented.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-133, County Expenditures.

Motion approved to direct Civil Counsel to draft a resolution addressing the relationship between the Trails Council and the Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners regarding any and all financial commitments, including but not limited to county staff, with ongoing development of the Boyne City to Charlevoix non-motorized trail phases 4 & 5.

Motion approved the Court Compliance Officer position and to amend the budget as necessary.

Motion approved to enter into the County Facilities Service Agreement with River Caddis for Phase 1, discovery and pre-development planning. 4.1 Nays: Commissioner Jess.

Motion approved to enter into contract with Mallard Lake Tree Service in the amount of $4,400.00.

Motion approved Resolution #25-134, Beaver Island Meal Program Shamrock Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #25-135, Beaver Island Community School Meal Program Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #25-136, Beaver Island Meal Program Wild Strawberry Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #25-137, Pivot Point Online Property Search Application and Parcel Map Agreement.

Motion approved Resolution #25-138, Depository Resolution.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:35 a.m.

CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Submitted by Kim Garver

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix CountyCommissioners room on September 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Conway.

Motion approved the agenda, as presented.

Motion approved the consent agenda, as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #25-122, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved Resolution #25-123, Resolution Opposing House of Representatives' FY26 Budget Cuts to County Revenue Sharing.

Motion approved Resolution #25-124, Phase 3 Boyne City to Charlevoix Non-motorized Trail Engineering Services Contract Change Order, as amended.

Motion approved Resolution #25-125, Court Compliance Officer.

Motion approved Resolution #25-126, East Jordan Senior Center Lease Renewal.

Motion approved Resolution #25-127, Agreement for Extension Services.

Motion approved Resolution #25-128, Friend of the Court Referee Contract.

Motion approved Resolution #25-129, 2025 Budget Deficits.

Motion approved Resolution #25-130, 2025 Subsidiary Fund Budget Deficits.

Motion approved Resolution #25-131, 2026 CCE 911 Central Dispatch Capital Improvement Plan.

Motion approved Resolution #25-132, 2025 Tax Millage Rate Request.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 7:31 p.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, *www.charlevoixcounty.org*.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

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